MARVEL

28

LGY#193

CATES
GEDEON
ABURTOV

VENOM

VENOM BEYOND PART 3

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JOE SINNOTT
1926-2020

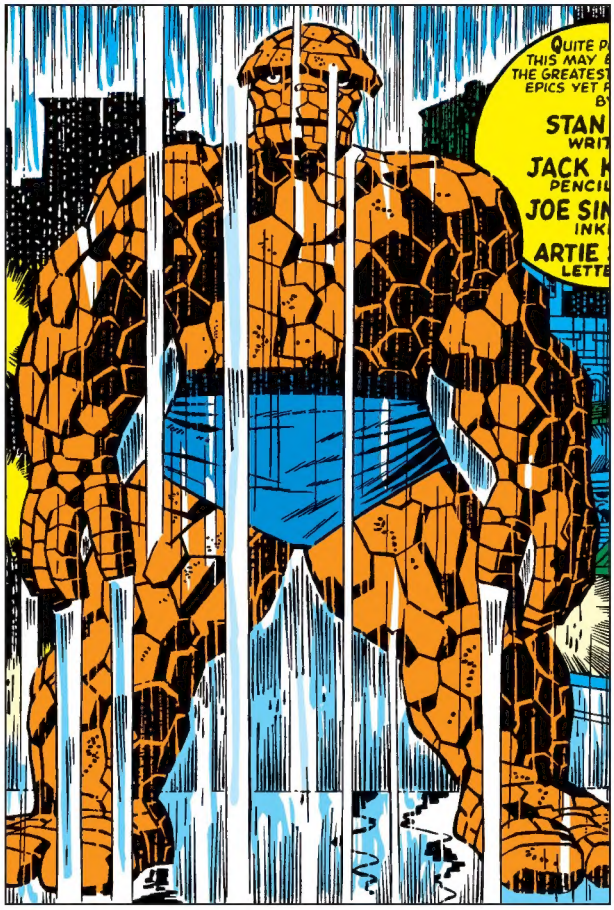
Joe Sinnott was a visionary master of art and story, and from the beginning his work invigorated an entire era of Marvel heroes.

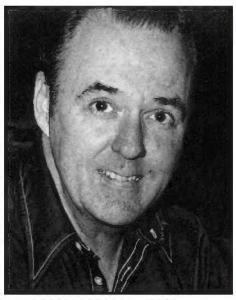
Sinnott earned his first comics assignment in 1950. After apprenticing under *Lone Ranger* artist Tom Gill, he began to get work from Atlas Comics (which later became Marvel) in 1951. As the decade progressed, he penciled stories in just about every genre.

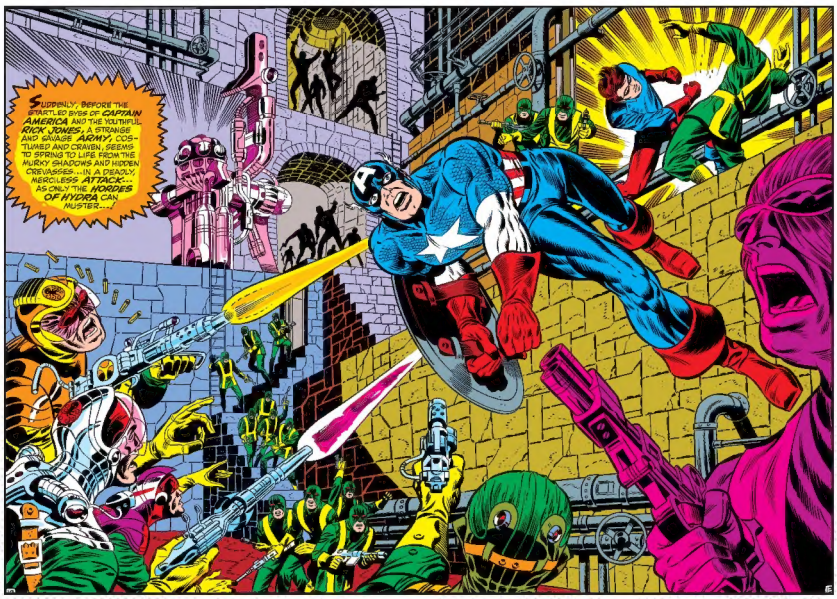
Sinnott first partnered with penciler Jack Kirby in 1960. In 1962, Sinnott landed an assignment that would change his professional life: inking *Fantastic Four #5*, the debut of Doctor Doom. Taking assignments for many companies at the time — including Marvel's *Journey into Mystery #83*, the first appearance of Thor — he returned to "The World's Greatest Comic Magazine" with *Fantastic Four #44*.

From 1965 until 1981, Sinnott embellished nearly every single issue of *Fantastic Four* and from artist to artist maintained a look and feel that conveyed a sense of continuity and familiarity. The fans loved it, and the artist became well known for his work. He had many other milestones along the way, including inks on *Captain America*, *Thor* and *Silver Surfer*.

Sinnott possessed the slickest line in comics, and his incredible brush control and innate artistic ability elevated the work of every penciler he worked in concert with, be they novice or superstar.






SUDDENLY, BEFORE THE STARTLED EYES OF CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE YOUTHFUL RICK JONES, A STRANGE AND SAVAGE ARMY, COSTUMED AND CRAVEN, SEEMS TO SPRING TO LIFE FROM THE MURKY SHADOWS AND HIDDEN CREVASSES...IN A DEADLY, MERCILESS ATTACK--AS ONLY THE HORDES OF HYDRA CAN MUSTER...!

DISGRACED REPORTER EDDIE BROCK STUMBLED UPON AN AGGRESSIVE ALIEN ORGANISM CALLED A SYMBIOTE DURING ONE OF THE LOWEST POINTS OF HIS LIFE. THE TWO WERE JOINED AND USED THEIR COMBINED LUST FOR VIOLENCE TO MAKE THEIR CITY SAFER AS THE LETHAL PROTECTOR...

VENOM

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VENOM BEYOND PART 3

EDDIE BROCK'S SON, DYLAN, CAN PSYCHICALLY MANIPULATE SYMBIOTES, THOUGH THE EXTENT OF HIS POWERS IS UNKNOWN.

LOOKING FOR ANSWERS, HE AND HIS FATHER VISITED THE MAKER, AN ALTERNATE REALITY REED RICHARDS WHO SOMETIMES TOLERATES THEM. BUT THE WORLD DOESN'T REVOLVE AROUND EDDIE BROCK, AND THE MAKER HAD BEEN WORKING ON DESIGNS OF HIS OWN – SPECIFICALLY FOR A SIZABLE INTERDIMENSIONAL GATE.

VIRUS, A MADMAN IN MECHANIZED ARMOR COBBLED TOGETHER FROM THE BLACK MARKET, AMBUSHED THE THREE OF THEM. IN THE ENSUING CHAOS, ALL FOUR WERE PULLED INTO THE MAKER'S PORTAL, SEPARATED AND SCATTERED ACROSS SPACE-TIME.

WHILE THE MAKER MADE OFF TO PARTS (AND TIMES) UNKNOWN, EDDIE AND DYLAN LANDED TOGETHER IN A TWISTED VERSION OF NEW YORK CITY WITH VIRUS HOT ON THEIR TAIL. HE WAS THWARTED, HOWEVER, BY A TEAM OF ULTRAVIOLENT AND SYMBIOTIC VERSIONS OF THE AVENGERS.

FORCED TO RETREAT FOR DYLAN'S SAFETY, EDDIE TOOK TO THE SEWERS AS VENOM, WHERE HE ENCOUNTERED A SMALL TEAM OF SYMBIOTIC HEROES... LED BY HIS LONG-DECEASED EX-WIFE, ANNE WEYING!

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HIS NAME IS *CODEX.*

HE IS THE UNCONTESTED RULER OF THE WORLD.

EVERY CITY. EVERY STATE. EVERY CORNER OF THIS PLANET LIES IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND...

AND DAY BY DAY...

...HIS GRIP GROWS TIGHTER.

OTTO, HOW ARE WE COMING ALONG? HAS THIS ONE BEEN BONDED?

NOT YET, CODEX. THE SYMBIOTE YOU CHOSE FOR HIM SEEMS ODDLY... HESITANT OF HIM. AS IF IT IS EXAMINING HIM OR...STUDYING HIM FOR SOME REASON.

HMM. WELL, KILL IT AND START OVER IF IT DOESN'T GET ITS ACT TOGETHER SOON.

CAN ***HE*** SPEAK?

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT ALL OF... ***THIS***...IS ABOUT.

YES. YES, OF COURSE. AT ONCE.

PLEASE! PLEASE LET ME OUT! I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU--

YOU'LL DO WHATEVER I WANT WHETHER ***YOU*** WANT TO OR NOT.

NOW...

THIS SUIT OF YOURS... THIS ***VIRUS*** ARMOR AS I'M TOLD...

IT'S ***SYMBIOTE-HUNTING*** TECHNOLOGY, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS PILFERED FROM AN INDUSTRIAL GRAVEYARD...

WAR MACHINE COMPONENTS.

COBBLED TOGETHER WITH AUGMENTED AND ANCIENT GOBLIN TECHNOLOGY.

WHERE DID YOU EVEN FIND--

IT'S ALL I COULD AFFORD, OKAY? BOUGHT IT ALL OFF THE TINKERER AND SOME BLACK MARKETS.

INTERRUPT ME AGAIN AND IT WILL BE THE LAST TIME YOU SPEAK.

THE TINKERER HAS BEEN DEAD FOR SOME TIME. AS ARE STARK AND OSBORN. I WOULD KNOW.

NOW TRY AGAIN. AND I WOULD HIGHLY ENCOURAGE HONESTY.

I'M NOT FROM THIS WORLD! I WAS CHASING BROCK AND HIS KID, AND WE FELL THROUGH THIS WORMHOLE THING AND ENDED UP--

BROCK?!

CRASH

TELL.

ME.

EVERYTHING.

MEANWHILE...

ANNIE...

HOW...HOW CAN THIS BE REAL?

"ANNIE"? WHAT'S GOING ON?

I...I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD SEE YOU AGA--

STOP IT! STOP!

DON'T DO THIS TO ME! YOU... YOU WORK FOR HIM, OR--OR--

TELL ME! TELL ME HOW YOU'RE HERE.

I WAS CHASING A MAN IN MY...MY WORLD, I GUESS. CALLS HIMSELF ***THE MAKER.***

WE FELL THROUGH A...A KIND OF WORMHOLE. A GATE, HE CALLED IT. WE ENDED UP HERE IN THIS...THIS CRAZY FUTURE...*

I SWEAR, ANNIE. I KNOW IT SOUNDS INSANE.

I'M JUST AS CONFUSED AS YOU ARE.

*SEE VENOM #26! --ED.

PROVE IT.
HOW DID YOU GET THAT SYMBIOTE?

I--I WAS IN A CHURCH. I HAD LOST MY JOB AND YOU AND EVERYTHING AND I... I WENT THERE TO...TO KILL MYSELF, AND IT--

DAMMIT.

WAIT...WHAT? ANNIE, WHAT'S WRONG? I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

THIS IS BECAUSE OF YOU.

WHAT? HOW DID--I MEAN, HOW *COULD*--

HERE.

ON THIS WORLD.

ON *MY WORLD.*

WHEN YOU WENT INTO THAT CHURCH...

"...YOU PULLED THE TRIGGER."

BLAM

WHAT... NO...

NO, I NEVER MEANT TO--ANNIE, I'M SO SORRY. I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT YOU MUST HAVE--

NO.

YOU CAN'T.

"I MOURNED YOU.

"I ALMOST LOST MY MIND.

"I HATED YOU FOR LEAVING ME.

"HATED YOUR FATHER FOR NEVER BEING THERE FOR YOU.

"AND I HATED MYSELF BECAUSE I COULD NEVER MAKE YOU BELIEVE HOW MUCH I LOVED YOU.

"I WAS JUST SO LOST...

"SO CONFUSED...

CE LINE DO NOT
POLI

"...SO ANGRY.

"I WAS JUST...SO MAD. MAD AT MYSELF.

"AT YOUR FATHER FOR NEVER BEING THERE FOR YOU.

"...AT THAT...REPORTER. THAT PARKER IDIOT WHO DROVE YOU TO THIS...

"AND THEN...

"SOMETHING IN THE DARK *FELT* THAT ANGER...

"IT CAME TO ME.

"AND THEN..."

BUT... I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHY DO YOU LOOK LIKE...

WHY DOES MY SYMBIOTE NOT LOOK LIKE YOURS?

AS YOURS PROBABLY DID, MY SYMBIOTE ALMOST IMMEDIATELY STARTED SPAWNING. PREPARING FOR SOMETHING HORRIBLE COMING...

...AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT OUR LEAD SCIENTIFIC OFFICER THINKS.

I WAS DRAFTED INTO A SHADOW UNIT BY OUR SADLY FORMER-PRESIDENT THOMPSON TO TRAIN THE NEW RECRUITS.

WE WERE LED BY A MAN NAMED REX STRICKLAND. THE FIRST HUMAN EVER BONDED TO ONE OF THE SYMBIOTES.

REX AND PRESIDENT THOMPSON DIED IN THE BIG WAR WITH CODEX. AND NOW? WE'RE ALL THAT'S LEFT.

WE USE THESE OLD TUNNELS TO GET AROUND. S.H.I.E.L.D. USED TO USE THEM TO TRANSPORT SECRET CARGO IN--

HEH, YEAH. I KNOW THESE TUNNELS.

GOOD. WELL, THEN. THAT ABOUT COVERS IT.

WANNA MEET THE TEAM?

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HEY. I'M PETER PARKER. I'M THE... IDIOT REPORTER FROM THE...WELL, YOU KNOW ME. I GUESS. HI, AGAIN!

CLETUS KASADY.

AGENT WADE WILSON. FOLKS AROUND HERE CALL ME DEAD--

NO, THEY DON'T.

HEY. I'M ANDI BENTON. WELCOME TO THE TEAM.

KASADY?! YOU HAVE THIS LUNATIC ON YOUR TEAM? ARE YOU INSANE?! HE'S GOING TO KILL--

HEY! BACK OFF!

CLETUS WAS THE FIRST ONE OF US TO JOIN. AND YES, HE HAS A PAST, BUT...WITH REX'S TRAINING AND A LOT OF HELP FROM OUR SCIENCE OFFICER...

...HE'S ONE OF THE BEST AGENTS WE--

AGH! MY SPIDER-SENSE!

OH GOOD, YOU STILL HAVE THAT.

SOMETHING IS COMING. WE NEED TO MOVE RIGHT--

BWOOM

NOW!

SHOW'S OVER! YOU CAN ALL STAND DOWN QUIETLY AND COME WITH US, OR...WELL...

...YOU CAN FIND OUT WHAT TIME IT IS...

...RGGHHHH...

DAMMIT, THEY MUST HAVE TRACKED YOU AND THAT KID!

GET YOUR GAME FACE ON!

YES, MA'AM.

GET IN THE SHADOWS AND STAY DOWN!

I DON'T WANT YOU SEEING WHAT WE'RE ABOUT TO DO TO THESE @#$%!

COME ON!!!

DON'T PULL ANY PUNCHES! REMEMBER, THEY AREN'T HUMAN!

WAY AHEAD OF YA!

CRUNCH

YOU KNOW, ANY OTHER UNIVERSE, THIS MIGHT BE A CLOSE FIGHT, JUGGY. BUT YOU'RE JUST A COPY. NO GEM OF CYTTORAK THIS TIME, HUH?

RGGHH...WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS...

SPOKE

BUT WE ARE STILL JUGGERNAUT!

AND...WE CANNOT...

BOOM

...BE STOPPED!

FWSHH

GUYS! REED'S DAMPENERS WILL ONLY BLIND US TO THE HIVE FOR SO LONG!

WE NEED TO END THIS!

NOW!!!

POW

WADE, GO TO PLAN X IF YOU--AGH!

YOU!

TALK TOO MUCH!!!

CRUNCH

BUT ARE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING...

IS TIME TO END THIS!

BLAM BLAM BLAM

HA!

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YOU THINK *SHE* TALKS TOO MUCH?! WELL, WAIT UNTIL YOU GET A LOAD OF--

NOT BIG ON WAITIN', BUB!

AGH!!!

SHUKK

RAAGHH!!!

VHAM

DAMMIT, WADE, COME ON! STOP GETTING STABBED AND LET'S GET OUT OF--

AGH!!!

COME ON, CLETUS!

I GOT YOUR BACK! LET'S ROLL!!!

WHA.... DIDN'T I *JUST* KILL THAT GUY? WHAT THE--

OKAY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!!!

WELCOME TO *PLAN X.*

THE "X" STANDS FOR *'SPLODE,* BTW.

AH, @#$%.

EVERYONE, RUN! NOW!!!

ALL RIGHT THEN. FOR EVERYONE STAYING, LET'S GO OUT ON A JOKE, *HUH?*

KNOCK-KNOCK?

WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU--

THE ONLY GUY WHO'S GONNA SURVIVE THIS!

CUE THE LAUGH TRACK.

BOOM

RUMBLE

SUCCESS!

WE HAVE ACHIEVED FULL SYMBIOSIS!

AGHH!!!

RELEASE HIM.

SPLSHH

VERY WELL, THEN.

YOU'VE BEEN VERY COOPERATIVE. YOU HAVE MY GRATITUDE FOR THE INFORMATION YOU'VE GIVEN ME.

YOUR NAME IS *VIRUS*, YES?

WE'LL NEED TO CHANGE THAT. BUT IT'S A START.

NO, EDDIE PARALYZED ME. TOOK MY LEGS.

HE AIN'T TAKING MY NAME.

FROM NOW ON...

...YOU CAN CALL ME SCORPION!

VERY WELL, MISTER GARGAN.

NOW...

...GET BACK ON YOUR KNEES.

SWEAR YOUR ALLEGIANCE TO ME...

"...AND BRING ME EDDIE BROCK."

OKAY, EVERYONE. WE MADE IT.

EDDIE, THIS IS OUR BASE. I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET OUR SCIENCE TECH AND LEADER...

...REED RICHARDS.

OH. GOOD.

ANOTHER ONE.

I KNOW, I KNOW. HE'S OFF HIS ROCKER, BUT HE'S ALL WE HAVE.

HEY, REED. I'M...WELL, IT'S COMPLICATED, BUT I'M EDDIE BROCK.

AH. YES. THAT **IS** QUITE COMPLICATED. HOW FUN!

AND WHAT IS YOUR NAME, SON?!

DYLAN. DYLAN BROCK, SIR.

D-D-**DYLAN?**

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON? WHY IS REED--

IS HE YOUR SON? DON'T LIE TO ME--IS HE ***YOURS?!***

YES! NOW WILL YOU PLEASE TELL ME WHAT--

IT'S HIM! IN OUR WORLD, EDDIE...

"...DYLAN IS CODEX!"

TO BE CONTINUED...

VENOM

#29 ON SALE NEXT!

HEY, VENOMANIACS! **VENOM BEYOND** IS JUST BEGINNING—WHERE HAVE EDDIE AND DYLAN GONE?! LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF THE STORY SO FAR BY WRITING US AT **SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM**! BE SURE TO MARK YOUR LETTERS "OKAY TO PRINT"!